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For appointing Commiſſioners to enquire into the Fees, Gratuities, Perquiſites, and Emoluments, which are or have been lately received in the ſeveral Public Offices in *Ireland* therein mentioned; to examine into any Abuſes which may exiſt in the ſame; and into the preſent Mode of receiving, collecting, iſſuing, and accounting for Public Money in *Ireland*.

Note.—*The Figures in the Margin denote the Number of the Folios in the written Copy.*

1 WHEREAS it is juſt and proper, that His MAJESTY and His People ſhould be ſatisfied, and truly informed, whether all the Duties, Taxes, and Monies granted, raiſed, and appropriated for the Public Service, have been faithfully collected, iſſued, and expended, for the Purpoſes for which they were granted; and that if any Defects in the preſent Method of collecting, iſſuing, expending, and accounting for the ſame, exiſt in *Ireland*, they may be corrected and amended, and a more expeditious, more effectual, and leſs expenſive Method of collecting, iſſuing, expending and accounting for the ſame, ſhould be 2 henceforth eſtabliſhed; and it is highly expedient, for the Public Service, that Enquiry ſhould be alſo made, reſpecting the Expences Preamble.

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in the different Offices and Departments of His MAJESTY's Government, in *Ireland*, hereinafter mentioned; and the Fees, Gratuities, Perquiſites, and Emoluments received and taken therein; with a View to the making of ſuch Regulations as ſhall be judged expedient and proper for the Correction of Abuſes which may have ariſen, and for the Purpoſe of effecting ſuch Savings as may be made in each; that is to ſay, The Offices and Departments under the Management of the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury; of the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Cuſtoms, Exciſe and Stamps; the Poſtmaſters General; the Board of Works; the Paymaſter of the Yeomanry or Diſtrict Corps; the Auditor General, and Auditor of Impreſt or Foreign Accounts; the Commiſſioners for aſcertaining the Allowances to be made to Bodies Corporate and Individuals, in reſpect to thoſe Cities, Towns, and Boroughs, which have ceaſed to ſend any Member to Parliament ſince the Union, and to make Compenſation to thoſe Perſons whoſe Offices may thereby be diſcontinued or diminiſhed in Value; and, the Directors of all Works relating to Inland Navigation in *Ireland* appointed under an Act paſſed in *Ireland* in the Fortieth Year of His Majeſty's Reign intituled, "An Act for granting to His Majeſty "the Sum of Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds for promoting In- "land Navigation in *Ireland*, and for the other Purpoſes therein "mentioned, and for authorizing the raiſing of the ſaid Sum by "Loan;"

Offices where Enquiries to be made.

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Be it therefore Enacted by the KING's Moſt Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That

Commiſſioners.

or any [illegible] or more of them, ſhall be and they are hereby conſtituted Commiſſioners for examining into the Method of collecting, iſſuing, and accounting for the Public Revenue of *Ireland*, and for making the Enquiries intended by this Act.

Enjoining the ſeveral Officers and Boards to lay Accounts, &c. before the Commiſſioners.

And be it further Enacted, That the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury for the Office of the Treaſury in *Ireland*, the Commiſſioners of Cuſtoms, Exciſe, and Stamps, for the Offices of Cuſtoms, Exciſe, and Stamps, the Poſtmaſters General, the Commiſſioners of the Board of Works, the Auditor General and Auditor of Impreſts and Foreign Accounts, and the Paymaſter of the Yeomanry or Diſtrict Corps, the Commiſſioners for aſcertaining Allowances to be made to Bodies Corporate

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Corporate and Individuals, in reſpect to thoſe Cities, Towns, and Boroughs, which have ceaſed to ſend any Member to Parliament ſince the Union, and to make Compenſation to thoſe Perſons whoſe Offices may thereby be diſcontinued or diminiſhed in Value, and the Directors of Inland Navigation appointed by virtue of the ſaid recited Act, ſhall, with all convenient Speed, lay the Returns of the Fees, Perquiſites, Gratuities, and Emoluments uſually taken, demanded, or received by any Clerk or Officer, within any of the before mentioned Offices or Departments reſpectively, or Copies of ſuch Returns, together with Copies of the Annual Eſtabliſhment, and alſo of the incident Bills for defraying contingent Expences, and of all Incident or Contingent or Extraordinary Expences, or Expences of any Nature or Kind incurred, and the Authorities under which the ſame have been incurred in the ſaid Offices and Departments reſpectively, as they ſtood in the Year ending the Day of and in any preceding Year, as they ſhall judge proper, and alſo in the Period of the preſent Year which ſhall have elapſed up to the Time of ſuch Return, before the ſaid Commiſſioners; and that the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, ſhall and they are hereby required to take into their Conſideration all the ſaid Returns, Eſtabliſhments, and Incidental Bills, and ſhall proceed thereupon according to ſuch Inſtructions and Directions as they ſhall from Time to Time receive from the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors and the Privy Council of *Ireland*.

Commiſſioners to proceed under the Directions of the Lord Lieutenant, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and required, to examine upon Oath (which Oath they or any of them are hereby authorized to adminiſter) the Commiſſioners and all other Officers of His Majeſty's Treaſury, the Commiſſioners, Collectors, Receivers, and all other the Officers and Perſons concerned or employed in collecting, receiving, or managing the ſeveral Branches of the public Revenue, and all other Perſons in *Ireland* whom they ſhall think fit to examine touching the Collection, Receipt, Iſſue, and Manner of accounting for the Duties, Taxes, and Monies granted, raiſed, and appropriated as aforeſaid; the ſeveral Officers and Perſons in any of the ſaid ſeveral Offices and Departments, and alſo all other Perſons who have had any Dealings or Tranſactions with the ſaid reſpective Offices or Departments, or the Repreſentatives of ſuch Perſons reſpectively, whom the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, ſhall think fit to examine touching the Fees, Gratuities, Perquiſites, and Emoluments taken therein reſpectively, and touch-

Commiſſioners to take Examinations on Oath.

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ing all other Matters and Things neceſſary for the Execution of the Powers veſted in the ſaid Commiſſioners by this Act, and all and every ſuch Perſon and Perſons is and are hereby required and directed to attend the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, at ſuch Time and Times, Place and Places, as ſhall be appointed, and alſo to obſerve and execute ſuch Orders and Directions, as the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, ſhall make or give for the Purpoſes aforeſaid; and that it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to examine into any corrupt or fraudulent Practices or other Miſconduct as far as the ſame relate or relates to the ſeveral Purpoſes intended by this Act to be examined or enquired into, committed by any Perſon or Perſons concerned in the Management of or employed in any of the ſaid ſeveral Offices or Departments: And the ſaid Commiſſioners or any of them ſhall and they are hereby authorized and required to meet and ſit from Time to Time, for the Purpoſe of carrying this Act into Execution, in ſuch Place or Places within the City of *Dublin*, or elſewhere in *Ireland*, as they ſhall find moſt convenient, with or without Adjournment; and it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to ſend their Precept or Precepts under their Hands and Seals, for any Perſon or Perſons whomſoever, and for ſuch Books, Papers, Writings, and Records, relating to any of the ſaid reſpective Offices or Departments, as they ſhall judge neceſſary for their Information, relating to the Accounts, Matters, and Things aforeſaid, or for carrying the ſeveral Purpoſes of this Act into Execution. 6 7

Commiſſioners to meet, in Dublin, or where convenient;

and to ſend for Perſons, Papers, and Records.

Commiſſioners to make Reports to Parliament, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall from Time to Time at their Diſcretion, and as often as they ſhall be thereunto required, and as ſoon as poſſible after the Determination of their Examination and Proceedings by virtue of this Act, without any further Requiſition, give an Account of their Proceedings in Writing under the Hands and Seals of them or any of them, to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, to be laid before His Majeſty, and alſo to both Houſes of Parliament, together with an exact State of the Fees, Gratuities, Perquiſities, and Emoluments paid or given in collecting, iſſuing, expending, and accounting for the Public Money, and the Authority under which they are demanded, paid, or received; and they ſhall ſpecify what Officers and Clerks belong to each Office or Department, or are employed in the ſame, and what is the Duty, Service, and Attendance required of them, together with

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an exact State of the Fees, Gratuities, Perquiſites, and Emoluments, which the ſaid Officers and Clerks, or their Deputies or under Clerks, may or ought lawfully to have and take, for or in reſpect of their ſeveral Offices and Places, or in regard of any Services performed as Officers, Clerks, Deputies, or under Clerks; adding at the ſame Time ſuch Obſervations as ſhall occur to them; and ſuch Plans either for Correction and Improvement or for aboliſhing or regulating any of the ſaid Fees, Gratuities, Perquiſites, and Emoluments, or for carrying into Execution the general Purpoſes of this Act, or for ſaving or arranging the Expenditure of Money by ſuch ſeveral and reſpective Offices and Departments, in the Execution of the Duties and Truſts ſeverally belonging to the ſame reſpectively, as may appear to them proper to be adopted for the Time to come; and ſhall in like Manner report what Defects they may have obſerved during the Courſe of their Examination and Proceedings by virtue of this Act, in the preſent Mode of collecting, receiving, iſſuing, and accounting for the Public Monies, and ſuch Orders, Rules, and Regulations as in their Judgment ſhall appear fit and expedient to be eſtabliſhed; in order that the Duties, Taxes, and Monies granted, raiſed, and appropriated for the Public Service, may hereafter be received, iſſued, expended, and accounted for, in the Manner the moſt expeditious, moſt effectual, moſt beneficial and advantageous to the Public: And the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any or more of them, are hereby authorized to appoint and employ ſuch Clerks, Meſſengers, and Officers, as they ſhall think meet; and to give to every of the ſaid Clerks and Officers an Oath for his true and faithful Demeanor in all Things relating to the due Performance of the Truſt repoſed in him by the ſaid Commiſſioners, and in all other Things touching the Premiſes; which Clerk and Officers are hereby reſpectively required faithfully to execute and perform the ſaid Truſt in them ſeverally and reſpectively repoſed, without taking any Thing for ſuch their Service other than ſuch Salary or Reward as the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any or more of them, ſhall direct and appoint in that Behalf.

For correcting Abuſes.

Commiſſioners may appoint Clerks and other Officers.

And be it further Enacted, That the Commiſſioners herein nominated or to be appointed by virtue of this Act, ſhall, before they begin to carry the ſame into Execution, take an Oath before the Chancellor of the Exchequer of *Ireland* for the Time being (which Oath he is hereby authorized and required to adminiſter); and ſuch Oath ſhall be in the Words or to the Effect following; (that is to ſay)

Commiſſioners to take an Oath of Office.

" I *A. B.* do ſwear, That I will faithfully, impartially, and truly, according to the beſt of my Skill and Judgment, execute

Oath.

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" execute the ſeveral Powers and Truſts veſted in me by " an Act made in the Forty-fourth Year of the Reign of " King GEORGE the Third, intituled, " An Act for [*here* " *recite the Title of this Act*] according to the true Tenor " and Purport of the ſaid Act. So help me GOD."

Appointment of new Commiſſioners.

And be it further Enacted, That in caſe of any Vacancy or Vacancies, by Death or Reſignation of any one or more of the Commiſſioners herein named or to be appointed by virtue of this Act, during the Continuance thereof, then and in every ſuch Caſe it ſhall and may be lawful to and for His Majeſty to nominate and appoint ſuch Perſon or Perſons as he may think proper to ſupply ſuch Vacancy or Vacancies; and every Perſon ſo nominated and appointed (after having taken the Oath of Office herein mentioned) ſhall be ſubject to the ſame Rules, Regulations, and Reſtrictions, and ſhall have the like Powers and Authorities for carrying this Act into Execution to all Intents and Purpoſes whatſoever as if he had been named in this Act. 11

Commiſſioners appointed to Vacancies, not to hold any Office of Profit under His Majeſty.

And be it further Enacted, That no Perſon appointed a Commiſſioner to ſupply any ſuch Vacancy ſhall accept of or hold any Civil Office of Profit from or under His Majeſty during the Continuance of this Act.

Puniſhing Perſons guilty of Perjury.

And be it further Enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall, upon his, her, or their Examination before the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, wilfully and corruptly give falſe Evidence, every ſuch Perſon ſo offending and being thereof duly convicted ſhall be, and he, ſhe, and they is and are hereby declared to be ſubject and liable to ſuch Pains and Penalties, as by any Law now in force and effect Perſons guilty of wilful and corrupt Perjury are ſubject and liable to.

Continuance of the Act.

And be it further Enacted, That this Act ſhall continue and be in force until the Day of

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For appointing Commiſſioners to enquire into the Fees, Gratuities, Perquiſites, and Emoluments, which are or have been lately received in the ſeveral Public Offices in *Ireland* therein mentioned; to examine into any Abuſes which may exiſt in the ſame; and into the preſent Mode of receiving, collecting, iſſuing, and accounting for Public Money in *Ireland*.

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